

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-16 (cancelled).

Claim 17 (new): An emollient mixture which comprises: at least one ester selected from the group consisting of esters of a C₈₋₁₈ fatty acid with a C₃₋₁₂ alcohol and the esters of adipic acid with a C₃₋₁₂ alcohol; and a poly- α -olefin wherein the content of the ester is between 10% and 90% by weight, based on the total quantity of ester and poly- α -olefin.

Claim 18 (new): The emollient mixture as claimed in claim 17, wherein, the ester comprises a fatty acid ester containing 12 to 18 carbon atoms in a fatty acid residue.

Claim 19 (new): The emollient mixture as claimed in claim 17, wherein, the ester comprises an ester containing 3 to 8 carbon atoms in an alcohol residue.

Claim 20 (new): The emollient mixture as claimed in claim 19, wherein, the ester comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of ethylhexyl palmitate, ethylhexyl stearate, isopropyl myristate and isopropyl palmitate.

Claim 21 (new): An emollient mixture as claimed in claim 17, wherein, the poly- α -olefin comprises a hydrogenated poly- α -olefin.

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Claim 22 (new): The emollient mixture as claimed in claim 17, wherein, the poly- α -olefin comprises an oligomer.

Claim 23 (new): The emollient mixture as claimed in claim 17, wherein the poly- α -olefin has a kinetic viscosity at 100°C of 1 to 100 cSt.

Claim 24 (new): The emollient mixture as claimed in claim 17, wherein, a content of the ester is 20 to 80% by weight based on the total quantity of ester and poly- α -olefin.

Claim 25 (new): The emollient mixture as claimed in claim 17 which consists of an ester and a poly- α -olefin.

Claim 26 (new): The emollient mixture as claimed in claim 17, wherein, the emollient contains up to 50% by weight based on a total quantity of ester and poly- α -olefin of an additional emollient.

Claim 27 (new): The emollient mixture as claimed in claim 26, wherein, the additional emollient comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of Guerbet alcohols and C₆₋₂₄ fatty acid glycerides.

Claim 28 (new): The emollient mixture as claimed in claim 27, wherein, the additional emollient comprises at least one Guerbet alcohol selected from the group consisting of 2-hexyldecanol, 2-butyloctanol and 2-octyldodecanol.

Claim 29 (new): The emollient mixture as claimed in claim 27, wherein, the fatty acid glyceride comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of C₈₋₁₈ fatty acid diglycerides and C₈₋₁₈ fatty acid triglycerides

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Claim 30 (new): The emollient mixture as claimed in claim 26, wherein, the additional emollient is present in a quantity of 0.1 to 50% by weight, based on the total quantity of ester and poly- α -olefin.

Claim 31 (new): A cosmetic composition comprising the emollient mixture claimed in claim 17 as a mineral oil substitute.

Claim 32 (new): The cosmetic composition which contains the emollient mixture claimed in claim 27.

Claim 33 (new): The emollient mixture as claimed in claim 22, wherein, the poly- α -olefin comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of dimer of 1-decene and dimer of 1-dodecene.

Claim 34 (new): The emollient mixture of claim 23, wherein the poly- α -olefin has a kinematic viscosity at 100°C of from 15 to 40 cSt.

Claim 35 (new): The emollient mixture to claim 24, wherein, the content of ester is from 25% to 75% by weight.

Claim 36 (new): The emollient mixture of claim 30 which contains from 5% to 40% by weight of the additional emollient.

Claim 37 (new): The emollient of claim 36 which contains from 10% to 30% by weight of the additional emollient.